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REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION

OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Letter dated 16 August 1994 from the representatives of Australia, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to address Your Excellency, upon instructions from our Governments which are members of the South Pacific Forum, to request, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the South Pacific Forum in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution concerning the request are annexed to the present letter (see annexes I and II).

(Signed) Richard ROWE
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Australia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Graham E. LEUNG
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Fiji to the
United Nations

(Signed) David PANUELO
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the
Federated States of Micronesia
to the United Nations

(Signed) William J. SWAIN
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of the
Republic of the Marshall Islands
to the United Nations

(Signed) Colin KEATING
Permanent Representative of
New Zealand to the
United Nations

(Signed) Utula U. SAMANA
Permanent Representative of
Papua New Guinea to the
United Nations

(Signed) Rex Stephen HORI
Permanent Representative of
Solomon Islands to the
United Nations

(Signed) Tuiloma Neroni SLADE
Permanent Representative of the
Independent State of Western Samoa
to the United Nations

(Signed) Jean RAVOU-AKII
Permanent Representative of
Republic of Vanuatu to the
United Nations

ANNEX I

Explanatory memorandum

1. The South Pacific Forum, which first met in 1971, is the political grouping of the 15 independent or self-governing States in the South Pacific. It meets annually, at the Heads of Government level, to develop collective responses on a wide range of regional issues, including trade, economic development, civil aviation and maritime issues, telecommunications, energy and political and security matters. In addition, the South Pacific Forum maintains a dialogue after each Heads of Government meeting with a number of external Governments and organizations.

2. The South Pacific Forum, in an agreement signed and ratified by its 15 members, has established a secretariat whose mission is to enhance the economic and social well-being of the people of the South Pacific, in support of the efforts of national Governments. Its objectives are:

(a) To implement effectively the directives of the Forum, and provide it and its ancillary bodies with efficient secretariat and support services;

(b) To provide timely policy analysis and advice to the Forum and its individual member countries, on political and economic issues;

(c) To facilitate sustainable regional development aimed at enhancing the well-being of the people of the South Pacific;

(d) To implement regional policies and programmes that support the priorities of Forum countries, and to pay particular attention to the most disadvantaged States and to the smaller island States;

(e) To manage the secretariat in an efficient manner ensuring the effective delivery of services and programmes and timely responses to country needs;

(f) To further the interests of the South Pacific by fostering regional cooperation, developing effective partnerships with countries and organizations, disseminating the views of the Forum and representing the Forum's concerns internationally.

3. As a regional organization representing 15 members, of which 9 are members of the United Nations, the States members of the South Pacific Forum are of the view that the Forum could benefit greatly from an observer relationship with the United Nations, and could also contribute to the activities of the Organization.

4. Accordingly, the South Pacific Forum requests that it be granted observer status at the General Assembly on terms similar to those that have been prescribed in respect of other associations of States.

ANNEX II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the South Pacific Forum in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Noting the desire of the South Pacific Forum for cooperation between the United Nations and the South Pacific Forum,

1. Decides to invite the South Pacific Forum to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.